

ELIZABETH M. HERNANDEZ

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

January 1,1995 to
PRESENT:

City Attorney
City of Coral Gables,
405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
(305) 460-5218

Chief Legal Officer for the City of Coral Gables, responsible for the handling of all legal claims and suits, and providing legal counsel to the City Commission and Administration. Principal negotiator and drafter of contracts and agreements executed by the City. The office drafts, reviews and analyzes proposed City ordinances and resolutions for compliance with Federal and State laws and statutes. Provide legal assistance to City Boards and Committees, and serve as prosecutor to the Code Enforcement Board.

March, 1991-December 31,1994

Partner
Akerman, Senterfitt & Eidson
Suntrust International Center
One Southeast Third Avenue
Miami, FL 33134-1714
(305) 374-5600

Civil trial litigator involved in all aspects of city, county and local government law, insurance coverage, personal injury, labor, administrative law and products liability. Headed the zoning and workers compensation practice of the Miami Office. Supervised four attorneys in the general practice area.

December, 1985-March, 1991

Kimbrell & Hamann, P.A.
Suite 900, Brickell Centre
799 Brickell Plaza
Miami, Florida 33131-2805
(305) 358-8181

Civil trial litigator. Practice included all aspects of municipal law, land use and zoning, personal injury and products liability, social security and disability benefits, insurance coverage disputes and workmens compensation.

August, 1983-December, 1985

Legal Services of Greater Miami, Inc.
Miami, Florida

General practice of law with majority of time devoted to practice before the Social Security Administration and federal courts. Administrative law practice required civil litigation in federal courts of original and limited jurisdiction, including appeals therefrom, as well as practice before state and federal administrative agencies. (Social Security Administration, State of Florida, Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services) Responsible for supervision of one attorney and one paralegal.

Other areas of litigation included insurance law, landlord/tenant, mortgage foreclosures, consumer law, and employment discrimination.

**EDUCATION and
CERTIFICATION(S)**

Certificates: AV rated Martindale-Hubbell
Board Certified, Florida Bar, City, County and Local Government Law, 1997.

Legal: Juris Doctor, University of Florida, Holland Law Center, Gainesville, Florida-1983.
Research assistant to Julian Juergensmeyer. Dean's Honor List, Book Award-Ethics.

Undergraduate: Bachelor of Arts, Florida International University, Miami, Florida-1980-Economics.
Emphasis on Macroeconomic Theory, Scholarship 1979-1980. Grant for work on South Florida Econometric Model. Dean's Honor List.

**PUBLICATIONS,
APPEARANCES and AWARDS**

Awards and Recognitions: 2007 Woman in Government Award, Woman's History Month.

2006, Recipient of 18th Annual "In the Company of Women" Award for significant contributions made to the quality of life for the Miami-Dade County Community, by Miami-Dade County Commission and Miami Dade County Commission for Women.

2007, 2006, Florida Super Lawyers.

2005, City Attorney of the Year, Florida League of Cities.

2005, City, County and Local Government Law Section of The Florida Bar, Legal Ethics and Professionalism Award.

2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, Florida Trend's, Legal Elite.

2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, South Florida Legal Guide-Top Government Attorneys.

1999-Kiwanis Club of Little Havana-Award For Special Contributions To the Organization.

1995, 1994, 1993, 1992-ARC Award For Community Volunteer.

1988-Mock Trial Coach Award.

1992-93, 1990-91-Agency Relations Committee-United Way.

1985 Legal Services Award For Contribution to Poverty Law and Equal Justice Under the Law.

Speaker/Publications: CLE International, "The Local Government Sector-Is There an Attorney Client Privilege? What if the New Rules are Adopted?", February, 2006

Lorman Seminar, Public Records and Sunshine Law, January 2006, 2007.

Lorman Seminar, Building Codes, "Discretionary Review of the Building Official", "Remedies for Violations", January, March 2006, 2007.

Lorman Seminar, Zoning, Subdivision And Land Development Law, "Moratorium" -December 9, 2005

ABA, Seminar of Ethical Considerations of Local Government Attorneys-Who is the Client?, January, 2006.

Miami-Dade County, Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Judicial Diversity Sensitivity Training, Panel Member, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

The Florida Trust for Historic Preservation , "Historic Preservation Law and Local Ordinances", February 2005.

Law Seminars International, Telecommunications in Real Estate, Important Ethical Considerations-"Quasi-Judicial Proceedings, Sunshine law, and Conflicts" - 2005.

Lorman, Building Codes, "Discretionary Review of the Building Official", "Remedies for Violations", 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Florida League of Cities, 2004 Annual Meeting-Panel-"Local Ballot Initiatives".

Florida League of Cities, 2004 Annual Meeting-"Quasi-Judicial Procedures-Practical Advice For Elected Officials".

Florida Municipal Attorney's Association-2004 Annual Meeting-"Outside Counsel Expense-When, Where and How to Effectively Use and Manager Outside Counsel."

ABA, Section of State and Local Government Law 2004 Spring Meeting, Hot Topics in Land Use Law-Historic Preservation Tips and Practical Suggestions.

Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics, Townhall Meeting-Legal Forum, 2004, The Municipal Client.

Purchasing Law In Florida, 2003, "Procurement Codes", Lorman Education Services.

Florida Municipal Attorneys Association, 21st and 22nd Annual Seminar, Panel Chair, Hot Topics in Local Government, 2003 and 2002.

"Public Records, Sunshine Laws, and Ethics in Local Government"- 2005, 2003, 2001, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995-City of Coral Gables-Bi-Annual Seminar, Yearly Workshop.

"Code Enforcement In Local Government"-2003, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1997, 1995, Code Enforcement Board, City of Coral Gables.

"How to Practice Before Local Governments", Annual Seminar,-2002, 1998-Cuban American Bar Association.

The Cuban American Bar Association-2002, 2001, 1998, 1997- "On Being A City Attorney".

South Florida Planning and Zoning Association-Seminar, Host, Speaker-Chief Lecturer-"Practice Before Local Governments" 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995.

Florida Bar, 2000-Annual Meeting-Judicial Nominating Commission- Guest Panel Speaker-Issues Confronting the JNC's.

Women In Politics-Coral Gables Senior High School Presentation-1997.

International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, 49th Annual Conference, 1997-Speaker.

Hispanic National Bar Association Annual Convention- ABA
Multicultural Women's Attorney Network, Commission on Women
in the Profession and the Commission on Opportunities for
Minorities in the Profession-1997- "Rainmaking the Latina Lawyers Way".

The National Association of Hispanic Public Administrators-5th Annual Conference-1997- Moderator-"Possibilities and Impacts in Our Society".

Florida Bar, Local Government Annual Seminar-1995 "Civil Rights".

American Bar Association-Local Government Section-"The New ADA Act and It's Impact on Local Governments, Readily Accessible Facilities"-New Orleans- 1993-1994.

Training Manual used by all attorneys in the Public Benefits Section at Legal Services-1985.

Assisted Julian Juergensmeyer in updating FLORIDA LAND USE RESTRICTIONS, D & S Publications, Inc.- 1983.

MEMBERSHIPS

Board Certification-1997 Florida Bar, admitted 1983; Supreme Court of the United States; Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals; United States District Court, Southern District of Florida; United States District Court, Middle District of Florida.

PROFESSIONAL and CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS

Florida Bar Member-1983-present.

Chair-Elect, Florida Bar, City County and Local Government Section June, 2006-2007; Executive Council, Florida Bar, City, County and Local Government Section, 2000-present, Secretary/Treasurer-2005-2006; Newsletter Editor-2003-2005; City County & Local Government Certification Committee- 1999-2002; Local Government Section- Member, Governor's Oversight Board For Legal Department-City of Miami, 1998-1999. Local Government Section-Legislative Committee 1997-1998; Grievance Committee-Eleventh Judicial Circuit, 2003-present; Disability Law Committee-1985.

Florida Municipal Lawyers Association, President 2006-2007; Executive Council, 2000-present; Council, 1997-2000.

Southern District, Federal Magistrate Selection Committee-2007.

11th Judicial Circuit, Diversity Sensitivity Panel, 2005-2007.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools, School Board Attorney Selection Committee-, 2005.

President, Cuban American Bar Association, 2007; Vice President, Cuban American Bar Association, 2003-2004, 2004-2005; Cuban-American Bar Association, Board of Directors and Newsletter Editor, 2003.

American Bar Association, Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, 2005-present.

Member, Board of Directors, South Miami Hospital, 1997-present- Ethics Committee.

United Way Campaign Cabinet, 2002-present; United Way Agency Relations Committee 1989-1993; United Way Trustee 1989-2006.

Miami-Dade County Bar Association, Professionalism Committee-2002, Blue Ribbon Panel, Judicial Reform and Financing, 2002.

Leadership Florida, 2000-2001.

State of Florida, Judicial Nominating Commission, Eleventh Judicial Circuit, July 1998-2001.

Member, Host Committee, International Municipal Lawyers Association 1998 Annual Conference, Miami Beach. Annual Conference-over 1000 participants.

St. Louis Catholic Church, Religious Education Teacher 1992-1997.

Advisory Council to Association for Retarded Citizens, Miami, Florida; Board Member 1985- 1996.

ABA-Local Government Section co-chair 1992-95.

Metro Dade County Public Nuisance Abatement Board- 1993-1995.

Legal Services Board-1990-1994, Treasurer, Secretary.

Florida Legal Services, Board Member 1990-1994.

Coach-Mock Trial Competitions, Dade County Public Schools 1985-1992.

Legal Services Of Greater Miami, Inc., Board Member, 1988-1990.

Leadership Miami, 1988.

Dade County Bar Association, Coral Gables Bar Association, Florida Planning and Zoning Association, Association of Hispanic Public Administrators.